

The Latter-Day Saints'

# MILLENNIAL STAR.

WHY THAT HATH AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAITH  
UNTO THE CHURCHES.—Rev. II. 7.

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## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN THE  
BRITISH ISLES, HELD IN CUMBERLAND STREET CHAPEL, CURTAIN ROAD, AND AT 23  
RATCLIFFE TERRACE, GOSWELL ROAD, LONDON, JUNE 26, 27, AND 28, 1854.

(Continued from page 468.)

5 30 P.M.

Council convened in the Saints' meeting room, 23, Ratcliffe Terrace, Goswell Road, Islington, and was opened by singing the 237th Hymn—"The spirit of God like a fire is burning," &c.

Prayer by Elder DAN JONES.

President S. W. RICHARDS expressed his satisfaction and joy that some of the Pastors and Presidents of Conferences, who had been, by circumstances, prevented assembling with us this morning, were now in our midst, as there was no place on the earth, but Great Salt Lake City, where so great a power of the Priesthood of God and of the Holy Spirit could be felt as here. As our object was the building up of the Kingdom of God, this was the place that we could be refreshed by the counsels of God, through His servants, and thus be prepared for future usefulness.

Elder THOMAS CAFFALL—I rise, with great pleasure, to represent the South Conference, as it exists, and in as concise a manner as possible. When I arrived at my Conference, I found things much in the manner in which they had been represented to me, but the whole of the story had not been told. After being there some time, I found that monies which had been collected for certain objects, had been applied to other purposes,

therefore we had to get up the means a second time, which was not altogether pleasant. Arrangements had been entered into to liquidate the account of our Book Agency, but had not been carried out. Had these arrangements been carried out, the whole of our book debt would have been paid, but their not having been carried out, has caused us to come short of clearing the debt. We have on hand sixty complete volumes of the *Star*. We have about forty *Stars* accumulating every week, but our stock and our Branch debts are sufficient to meet the demands of the Office at Liverpool.

I have at present four Travelling Elders, and we have occasionally a visit from Elder McAllister.

We have baptized twenty-four persons the last quarter, and we hope to baptize more the next, as the opinion which was prevailing, that there had been sufficient preaching, appears to be vanishing away.

A few months ago, things were in a very depressed state—owing to what had transpired, the Saints had lost confidence in those who had to administer to them, and they looked with an evil eye upon those who came to preside over them. But prospects are brightening, and I trust that in a short time things will be much better than they are at present.

Our Conference extends into four counties. In some instances it is forty miles from one Branch to another, in others fifty.

The Saints are blessed with poverty to such an extent that it is unnecessary for me to tell them they are poor, they all know it. It is no uncommon thing for them to live on bread and water day after day. Some of them are ready to do all that they are requested, while others, who watch with an evil eye, are not in possession of much information; some of the officers have not met in council for three years. They are lacking faith on one principle—the last “cat that was let out of the bag.” Polygamy has been got over pretty well, that cloud has vanished away, but they are troubled about Adam being our Father and God. There is a very intelligent person investigating our principles, and who has been a great help to the Saints; he has all the works, and can get along very well with everything else but the last “cat,” and as soon as he can see that clearly, he will become a “Mormon.” I instructed him to write to Liverpool upon it.

The Travelling Elders and Presidents of Branches are united, and are preaching the Gospel in the open air, when the weather permits, and they bring in very favourable reports. There are plenty of places where the Gospel has never been preached, and consequently there is room for Elders to labour on the Gospel principle. Pastor Webb and I have laid our plans, and I believe we shall do a good work, as the prospects are much better than they were six months ago.

Elder THOMAS B. BRODERICK—I rejoice to have the privilege of meeting with you this afternoon to represent the Wiltshire Conference, over which I have presided the last six months. I have joy in looking over the Conference in its present condition, compared with the condition which it was in when I took charge of it. If poverty were a crime, I should have to represent the Saints in very bad standing. There are two things which are a pest to that Conference—poverty and parsons. When the Elders distribute tracts, the parsons go and take them up, and keep them, or give them up when compelled. They also use their influence over the people, to such an extent, that, if they were convinced, they dare not obey. Some will come and hear the Elders preach, and then go away and

tell their neighbours they have heard a *moing* sermon, but they take no further notice.

We have baptized forty-four or forty-five persons during the last half year. When I left the Saints in that Conference, our parting was with many tears, they were sorry to part with me, and I with them. When I was appointed to the Kent Conference, one of the Saints told me they had taken up a collection for me, and had had a *moing* good un. On my arrival, I found 1s. 1½d. This will give you an idea of the state of temporal affairs there. I have preached the Temple and Emigrating funds considerably, but I find that money matters are very limited. As to the Book Agency, it is not as I would like to see it; there are debts which have been standing for years, for books, room rent, &c.; the said debts for rent must now be paid, or the Saints must give up their meeting room.

We have a great many books and tracts on hand, partially caused by some of the Saints leaving the Conference after taking a few of the first numbers of the *Star*, and the remainder of those volumes being left on our hands. I have never preached poverty to them, neither should I have done, if I had remained, but I feel that a man who has influence over them may make them believe just what he has a mind, by contrasting their circumstances with the position of others. For my own part I never feel poor, but always feel rich.

As regards Travelling Elders, we have been very short of late. Last Conference, I called one out. There is another who will soon be ready to go out also. We cannot extend our labours any great distance, for by doing so we should be encroaching upon some of the other Conferences. If other Travelling Elders were to be sent there, they would have to depend upon the Lord, as the Saints could do nothing for them.

As brother Samuel wished to know our feelings concerning him, I will give mine in a few words. It is my feeling, that President Samuel W. Richards has done everything for the salvation of the British Saints that possibly could have been done, and I will ever pray the choicest of Heaven's blessings to be with him through all coming time. Amen.

Elder JOSEPH HALL—It is with pleasure that I arise to represent the Lands End Conference. They are a good people.

Some of the brethren have alluded to females in the Branches, but I can say that I have a sweeping majority of them—so much so, that I do not think there are more than fifty male members in the whole Conference. It has been remarked that the sisters may go out to distribute Tracts. But the sisters in the Lands End Conference cannot even do that, on account of their families. Relative to the condition of the Saints, poverty is a principle that I detest to speak upon, but there it is, and it stands out in bold relief. If my Saints have not done so much as some others, it has been because they could not possibly do it. We have two collections every Sunday, for one purpose or another. As to general funds we have only one, and it is very small, for the most of the Saints are seamen's wives, and they obtain for themselves and families from 16s. to 24s. per month, which you are aware is not much for any purpose. Those who are not seamen's wives, are widows and servants, and in no better circumstances.

Relative to new places, there are many, but we have nobody to send to them. We have two Travelling Elders, one is Elder Ross, who has laboured indefatigably in Exeter, where a great excitement has prevailed, but it is now abating a little. We have some opposition from the Primitive Methodists, and they both preaching in one place. On Sunday week they were very opprobrious, and they disturbed the brethren when preaching. In Devonport we had two rooms, but, through some inconvenience, we have given them up and taken one large room. There are several very important places in the Conference, where the Gospel has not been preached, neither can we mission them, not having any Elder to send there, nor any means of sustaining one, except he depend upon the Lord.

Relative to the principles recently revealed, we have not the least difficulty. If Adam's being our Father and God cannot be proved by the Bible, it is all right.

Relative to the Book Agency, the Saints prize their Stars, and, when unable to pay for them, they request the Agent to lay them up in reserve until circumstances render them able to pay for them.

As to President Samuel W. Richards, I have laboured under his counsels with the greatest pleasure, and the Saints of our Conference have enjoyed themselves

under his counsels and instructions. I never preach poverty to them, for it is totally unnecessary. We are about to devote one day's wages to the liquidation of the book and Star debts.

Elder MATTHEW ROWAN—I have been six months in the Sheffield Conference, and have laboured with great pleasure in giving such instructions and counsels as the Spirit of the Lord has dictated unto me to impart unto His people. We have neither poverty nor parsons to contend with. We have had to pay a great deal of money for one purpose or another. At our Conference last Sunday, (yesterday) I found that more than £100 had been got up during the six months, but I trust in a short time we shall have paid all our debts, both for books and other things; then we shall be free indeed.

We have baptized more this half year, than have been baptized in six months for some time previously; still our baptisms are not very numerous, yet I trust they will be more frequent, as we have our officers go out preaching on Sundays, and they bring in favourable reports. We have two Travelling Elders who are labouring diligently to build up the Saints.

It is not necessary for me to take up much time in representing our Conference, only to say it is in good condition. We preach money, for the funds, and for other necessary purposes, all the time, and the brethren expect such preaching, therefore they are not disappointed in the least. The Gifts of the Spirit are frequently manifested in our meetings, and the Saints are increasing in faith and knowledge.

As to President Samuel W. Richards, we had our Conference yesterday, and we took an expression concerning him, in which all were united in expressing their joy and satisfaction with his labours. I pray the Lord to bless Elder Richards and carry him safe to Zion.

Elders W. G. MILLS and J. CAVFALL then begged to speak in behalf of President S. W. Richards. The privilege being granted they both spoke in terms of the highest satisfaction, and only regretted not being able to express their feelings in a more able manner, as their language was inadequate to convey any idea of their feelings.

Elder JOHN W. LEWIS—With reference to the Lincolnshire Conference, I cannot speak upon it as I would like, but a great improvement has taken place



During the last six months. We have laboured diligently, and have restored a general good feeling, which is something towards better times. Our Book Agency is in a very, very bad state. There is upwards of £100 due to the office at Liverpool, and I found, by auditing the Books last week, that there was about £44 deficient of the amount to meet that demand. We have adopted a plan to raise the amount, by assuming five shillings apiece around, which will pay it. We have on hand some fourteen or fifteen complete volumes of the *Star*. Travelling Elders and Sub-Agents have left our Conference in debt to the amount of £6 or £7, and have been taken no notice of. There are others who have gone to the Valley and left the Conference in debt, for the last four or five years.

At our last Conference it was agreed to pay the five shillings each by the 1st August. Thirty-eight pounds of this debt I find has been upon the Conference two or three years, and has been called an old debt.

As regards the Conference and Emigrating Funds, we have got up about £7 for each fund since our former President left.

As regards President S. W. Richards, I believe there is not a person in the whole Conference but what feels well towards him. The Saints have frequently inquired whether he was an old or a young man. On being informed that he was a young man, they have been struck with wonder at the wisdom manifest in his counsels. They also rejoice at the idea that brother Franklin has returned to preside over them again.

We are preaching all that we possibly can in the open air. We have had one camp meeting, which has done a great deal of good. We purpose having four or five more. Two persons have been employed in what is termed "Mormon killing," but they have not been very successful.

The poverty of the Conference is very great, and it is now being increased, as many of the brethren, not being able to get work, are fleeing to the coal-mines in the Sheffield Conference. That Conference will now reap the harvest. Some of the Saints are as good as any people in the world, and would be happy to do more, provided they had it to do with, while others never did do anything, and I believe never will. The spirit of ga-

thering is very rare, and if the new gathering places be opened, the Saints will make great efforts to go.

Elder BRUCE ARWOOD—I repaired to the Bradford Conference as soon as circumstances would allow, but before my arrival the former President had left. Elder Bunker was there, and he gave me the information which I desired. I have endeavoured to carry out his counsels and instructions, and I purpose doing so the remainder of my stay, as I know that that is the only way to be right.

There are three Travelling Elders in the Conference. Two of them have come into the Conference since I came. They are good men, and willing to do all that I tell them.

We have a large stock of *Stars*, &c., on hand, some available and some not available. Our stock is increasing every week, and I believe the *Star* and the *Journal* have a great influence upon the minds of the Saints, and hinder much the sale of the *Star*. Some person has written from the Valley, and says that the *Star* is worth nothing, and may be dispensed with, for the Saints will have to throw it away when they emigrate. Some of the Saints are very poor, but their feelings are good, in fact they are a good people altogether.

Elder GEORGE W. BRANWELL—I it gives me great pleasure to be able to say that the Birmingham Conference is in very good condition, as a whole. There are one or two Branches which appear to be consumptive, but I have made arrangements for special meetings in them, the results of which, I hope, will be satisfactory. We have had some things of a very unpleasant nature to contend with, but I think they are now over. There has been quite a mania for Loan Societies, and the brethren have been bound for each other, and have in almost every case had the money to pay, which has caused considerable feelings, but we hear little of these things now. As to our general Book Agency, it is in good condition, having stock and Branch debts sufficient to meet the demands of the office.

With reference to President S. W. Richards, I will say, for the Saints in the Birmingham Conference, that they are all well pleased with his administration as President of the British Churches, Editor of the *Millennial Star*, &c., so much so, that, when informed of his being about to



turn to Zion, it caused a deep wound in their hearts. But I am happy to say that, as soon as it was made known unto them that his brother Franklin would succeed him, the wound was healed. So far as I am concerned, I could wish myself an artist, to be able to portray the joy and satisfaction which have pervaded my bosom at the wisdom displayed in his counsels, but, knowing as I do, my incapability to do justice to such an undertaking, I will content myself with praying God to bless him in all his future life, and to enable him to obtain a full and complete salvation.

We have three Travelling Elders, who are all good men, and who endeavour to carry out my instructions to them, which is also the case with the Presidents of Branches.

We have but few places in which to introduce the Gospel, being bound up on every side by the other Conferences, but the brethren are preaching on Sundays in every place where they can obtain a hearing.

Pastor Barlow and I have made arrangements for the liquidation of the greater part of our Book debt, which we purpose carrying out at our next Conference. We should have done this sooner, but we have had to raise about £160, since I took the Presidency, to free the Conference from other debts.

Elder W. G. McMULLIN—I rise with great pleasure to represent the Saints in the Warwickshire Conference in good standing; they all rejoice in the work of the Lord, as it has been made known unto them. The Priesthood are united, and they attend to their duties without any difficulties on my part. We have several good men, men of talent and sound judgment, and who require teachings and examples of the same nature from all who labour in their midst.

We have two Travelling Elders, they are good men, and they labour diligently, and have been a great assistance to me, by visiting the Branches and keeping things in order when I have been unable to attend.

As to the general Book Agency, I find there is from 25 to 28 due to the office, for which we have nothing, either in stock or Branch debts, to show. At the commencement of the year, I ordered no more Stars from the Office at Liverpool than the Saints had promised to

take, but I find now that they have not been taken according to promise, but they are accumulating every week. Elder Douglas had made some arrangements to liquidate the Book Debt, which I have endeavoured to carry out as far as possible. I have three or four prominent men, who have families; they are men well calculated to do good in the ministry; they go out preaching on the Sabbath, and some times on the week days.

Elder JAMES PAGE—I can speak in the highest terms of the Saints in the Bedfordshire Conference. The authorities of the Church have their entire confidence, both those in the Valley, and those in England.

We have four Travelling Elders, two of whom have just started out, and I believe will be instruments in doing much good. We have good men presiding over the Branches, some of them have good abilities, while others are not so talented. The officers go out on Sunday by twos or threes to preach; they get good meetings, and are in good spirits. We have plenty of room for labourers, but not much money to support them. There are several large towns in which no opening has been made, but I think if we had faithful Elders to mission them, an opening might be effected. The Branches are generally in good standing, and are willing to obey the counsels of those placed over them.

With regard to our financial affairs, I flatter myself that all will be well. Our Book Agency is in good condition. The Agent is a good man. We are getting off considerable of the old stock. We have shared the blessings of our beloved Pastor, and the Saints here felt built up, and we feel that in coming time we shall be able to reap where others have sown.

Elder JOHN M. BROWN—We have been in the Cambridgeshire Conference nearly two years, during which time many things have transpired, some pleasant, and some otherwise. We have baptised about twenty-five persons during the last six months in the whole of the Conference. The Saints generally are in good spirits and in good standing—they wish and are determined to do right. I have no Travelling Elders in the Conference, but there is a large district of country in which the Gospel has been preached little, if any. I have preached a great deal in the open air during the last two months, and I hope to do good thereby. If we had two or three good

men, full of faith, to labour in our Conference, I feel confident they might do good, but whoever comes there to labour must come prepared to live by faith. We have a number of debts which have been accumulating for some time. Our book and *Star* debt is considerable, but we have adopted means to liquidate it. We have about seventy members in Cambridge—of that number there are only five brethren, all the others are sisters.

Elder CHARLES A. HARPER—In regard to the Norwich Conference, I am prepared to state the feelings of the Saints to be good. We are introducing the Gospel in places where it has not been preached, and the places that have been preached in we are leaving alone for the present. We are determined to let the people hear, that they may judge for themselves. As regards temporal affairs, the Saints are very poor, most of them have been out of work for some time, the principal part of them are weavers and shoemakers, and have had to go into the workhouse, which is the reason our funds have not been as large as usual.

We have a very large stock of *Stars*, of the back volumes, but have very few of the present volume, as we pack them up and send them to the country Branches; and those Saints who are too poor to buy them, we take up a collection and give them the *Stars*. There are about 6000 or 7000 *Stars* in general stock. At our last Conference we took a vote for all who were in work to apply one day's wages towards liquidating the book debts. Out of 1000 members we raised about £14, which shows they are not in a position to do much. I have preached the promises of God, and not poverty, to them.

We have not baptized as many as some of the Conferences, but we have baptized a few, and we hope to baptize more in the coming half year.

As regards brother Samuel W. Richards, I can speak for the Saints concerning him—they all feel well satisfied with his labours, and pray the Lord to bless him with all things needful for his future life.

Elder ISAAC ALKEND—I feel it a pleasure to make a statement of the condition of the Southampton Conference, but should feel more pleasure if its circumstances were different. We have had considerable to encounter, both this year and last, but that influence which has been the

cause of so much trouble has given way, to a considerable extent. It was in the Southampton and Dorsetshire Conferences that Elders Armstrong and Margetts were suspended. The actions of these men caused a division, both in the feelings and practice of the Saints—so much so, that through it some were cut off before I went to Southampton, and others have been cut off since. I have laboured with all the energy I have had, in connexion with Pastor Willie, to heal up the wounds, but have little faith that we shall be able to heal them up entirely.

We have five Travelling Elders; they are good men, men that love the Saints, and the Saints love them. There has been a great deal of preaching in some of the places; others have had no preaching in. We have territory sufficient for three large Conferences. We have not baptized as many as were baptized last year, neither do I think we have baptized as many as have been cut off. We are distributing tracts in a great number of towns and villages, both the brethren and sisters are rendering themselves useful in that capacity, and many persons are believing our principles.

The Conference is in debt, but our first half year's donation for the Temple offering will be paid in a few days. The former Book Agent, who was hand in glove with Armstrong and Margetts, in their abominations, proved defaulter for £33, and it is confidently believed they were the cause of his defalcation, and that they shared the money with him. We shall hold our Conference next Sunday, when we purpose adopting some means to pay off this amount. We have on hand from thirty to forty copies of the two last volumes of the *Star*, complete and in good order.

The Elder that is labouring in Southampton is a good man, and will do as far as he can, according to the intelligence in his possession. We have some eight or ten preaching places on a Sunday, some of them are well attended, while others are not so well.

I am satisfied with the labours of President Samuel W. Richards, which is the case with all the Saints.

Elder WILLIAM SMITH—I feel happy this evening in having the privilege to make a few remarks relative to the Dorsetshire Conference. It is small, and, like many others, it is very poor. The Saints

generally are united, and desirous to do the will of our heavenly Father. Some, of course, have not got clear of that spirit spoken of by Elder Allred. As this was the Conference in which Armstrong laboured most, it consequently felt most the effects of his abominations. We have not baptized so many as I should have wished; no doubt those things spoken of have had an influence on the minds of the people. As to the general aspect of things, the Conference is prospering, and it feels to prosper every day. In relation to our Book Agency, it is as well as we can expect.

**Elder GEORGE SIMPSON**—It is well understood that I have but just been appointed to the presidency of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Conference, but while there I have endeavoured to make myself as much acquainted with its condition as possible. I have examined the General Book Agency, and found that there is about £40 due to the office at Liverpool, for which there is nothing to show.

There are seven Travelling Elders in the Conference, and there is room for a great many more. Those we have are diligent to build up the kingdom of God.

We have baptized upwards of 100 persons during the last three months. The whole place seems alive with "Mormonism," and I feel determined to walk before the people blameless, that no stumbling block may be placed before them on my account. As regards brother Samuel, all the Saints feel well towards him, and would much enjoy a visit from him before he leaves for the Valley.

**Elder THOMAS WILLIAMS**—I feel to appreciate the present privilege afforded me to represent the Saints of the Hull Conference, for they are a good people. The feelings of some of them have been a little hurt by so many emigrating last season, but all is right again now. Our meetings are well attended by respectable people, and an opening appears to be presenting itself into some families of that class; in fact, some of them have been baptized, and others are to be baptized on my return.

We have about £28 worth of books on hand, which we purpose paying for shortly—we are adopting means to raise the amount.

**Elder PHILEMON C. MERRILL**—I am truly happy to have this privilege to stand in this Council, with so many with whom

I have been in different positions. I have felt well all the time, for the Spirit of the Lord has been in our midst. The Carlisle Conference has borne not one of the best of names, in years that are past, and I thought my representation would be the worst, but I feel encouraged now that there are others as bad, for a great improvement has taken place of late. I found a very good foundation laid for this improvement, on which I have endeavoured to build. There is now a good spirit prevailing in Carlisle, although it is one of the oldest Conferences upon the British Isles. We are distributing tracts, which appear to be doing good. I have no Travelling Elders but myself, neither could the Saints in their present position support more, but they, although very poor, are increasing fast in the riches of faith, and I believe that, if Pastor Glover comes to preach another time or two, they will become quite rich. The Priesthood go out every Sunday to preach; they have houses opened to them, refreshment offered them, and have commenced to baptize. The Saints of the Carlisle Conference think they are nothing thought of by the authorities. I believe that if they could have a manifestation of the approbation of the Presidency in Liverpool, they would feel much encouraged.

With relation to brother Samuel, when they learned he was about to return to Zion, their feelings were wounded, but as has been said before, the wound was healed when they were told that brother Franklin was coming to succeed him.

**Elder WILLIAM PITT**—Derbyshire Conference is a small one, but the standing and faith of the Saints are good, and they mean to do right, and to do all in their power to roll forth the work of God. Circumstances have been of such a nature that the Saints have not had it in their power to contribute to the funds, according to their wishes, but nothing will be lacking on their part. It is a very old Conference, and has been preached in a great deal, so much so that the Saints thought there had been preaching enough, but instead of cherishing this opinion now, we are preaching in every place in the Conference, and we have men who can preach well.

There appears to be a spirit of inquiry, and the people are favourable to us, for when the police have come to interfere with



the brethren preaching, the people have opened their gardens for us to go into and preach. Our finances are not as the Saints would wish for, but they have made arrangements for paying up their book and *Star* debt. There has been a great deal of money squandered somehow, many pounds have been spent, and no account has been made of it.

The *Seer* and the *Journal of Discourses* appear to me to have an influence on the sale of the *Star*, but I suppose it is all right. Every principle that comes out through the appointed channel is all right for our Saints—they believe all that comes through the publications. They have the best of feelings towards the Presidency, both in Liverpool and the Valley.

Elder EDWARD FROST—The state of the Leicestershire Conference is now far better than it has been for some time, but during the last six months a great many of the Saints have been out of work, and have had to go to the Bastille to get food, which has been the cause of the funds being so low. Of late I have introduced a plan for work for the Saints, that they may be better off. We have about fifty *Stars* lying up in stock weekly, but I think the Saints will shortly be better off. Our prospects are very good indeed. The brethren go out from twelve to fifteen miles on a Sunday to preach, and are very well received by the people, who inquire of them when they will come again.

Whenever I have heard them speak of brother Samuel it has been with the greatest respect. When they heard that he was going home, they wondered who was coming in his place. On being informed that brother Franklin was coming, they rejoiced, knowing that he would lead them in the paths of truth. They have already commenced to pray the Lord to bless and preserve brother Samuel on his way to Zion.

Elder JOSEPH WESTWOOD—It is with pleasure that I arise to represent the Nottinghamshire Conference. A great many of the Saints are in the stocking business, and are in depressed circumstances, but they are united in all their efforts to carry out the work of God. They had an idea when I went there, that it was of very little use to preach to the world, but to take care of the Saints. These views have been changed during the last six months, and we have baptized a good number. I found that the Temple Fund would be

far short of the amount required, therefore I draw up a paper, and asked the Presidents of Branches how much they would pay. Some of them paid £1 each, and some of the sisters 10s., &c., by which means I feel assured our half yearly donation will be forwarded by the time.

As regards President S. W. Richards, the Saints sent their love to him, and wished me to invite him to come to see them before he left, if possible.

Elder OSMAN M. DEUEL—It is with some degree of pleasure that I rise to give something of the history of the Staffordshire Conference, though I am scarcely able to speak, from a severe cold. It is about six months since I was appointed to the Presidency of that Conference. Not having been accustomed to preside, I have done my best, although that may have been but little. The Conference was in a very bad condition, and manifested no confidence in the Priesthood. I found a large number of officers, some had been in the Church fourteen years, but through some things that had taken place they were at sword points with all the authorities. The Macclesfield district, which is about one-third of the Conference, and the Potteries districts, about another third, were in a dreadful state—these made two-thirds in a bad condition. I found myself in great difficulty—what to do I knew not, but I was satisfied that, except unity of feeling and action of the Priesthood could be restored, no good could be done. I consulted with Elder Earl, and endeavoured to restore unanimity in the Priesthood. There were two Travelling Elders there at the time I went, who, in company with brother Earl, assisted me to remove the hard feeling, as far as we could. I told brother Earl that it must be removed, or we might as well leave the place, and give up the salvation of the people, as no good could be effected so long as hard feeling existed. We have succeeded, to a good degree, in restoring a proper feeling, more especially in the Potteries district, which appeared to be the worst. In the Macclesfield district they promise but do not perform; however, I have determined to put down this way of doing business, if I have not a toe nail left on.

As regards the financial affairs, the war appears to affect the Saints very much. The greater portion of them are in the silk business, and are very poor. All the

ministry are preaching every Sunday, and are doing all in their power to roll on the work of God.

The Temple Fund has come up pretty well; concerning the Emigrating Fund I am not in possession of the particulars. As to the Book and Star Agency, there is something like £80, which has been called an old debt, and it has been made no less since I went there, but we have adopted a plan to pay it off, and it is working well. We have about three hundred Stars coming weekly, fifty-three of which have to be laid by. I have spared no pains while there, but have done all in my power. I purpose to continue to do so while I remain. As to the faith and prayers of the Saints towards brother Samuel, they are just what they should be; they wish brother Samuel well, and would like him to come and see them before he leaves, and I believe it would do them a great deal of good if he could thus far favour them.

President F. D. RICHARDS then made a few very appropriate remarks, relating to the presiding Elders doing their duty before the Lord, in all humility, and putting down every species of evil. He told Elders Earl and Denel that as they

had undertaken to clear out these roots of bitterness, he wished them to make a thorough work of it, and leave no roots broken off under ground, that would spring up after, but cleanse out that spirit of fault-finding and disobedience entirely from the Conference. He had been aware of this spirit existing in the Macclesfield, and Potteries district before he left, two years ago. The time had come when if men who had been in the Church ten or twelve years had not learned better than to be fomenting discord and stirring up strife, the Church had learned better than to be afflicted any longer with their foolishness. Brethren, the Lord wishes you to act by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in all such important matters, and if you do what appears to you to be right, with an eye single to His glory and the salvation of souls, He will bless you in all your undertakings, and enable you to accomplish whatever you undertake.

The 166th Hymn—"Come all ye sons of God, who have received the Priesthood," was then sung in a very spirited manner, and, with benediction by Elder Dan Jones, the Council adjourned till to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

(To be continued.)

## The Latter-day Saints' Millennium Star

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1864.

THE EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN is a subject which ought to command the most careful and serious consideration of all Saints. Those who have had the advantages of a tolerable education, know that it is of great value to them, beyond comparison with gold or any paltry consideration which the earth affords. To such we scarcely need urge the importance of this subject—they know it, they realize it, their gift makes room for them, and if they appreciate the worth of immortal souls, committed to them by God for training and culture, it will be with them a primary object to bestow upon their sons and daughters that knowledge which will enable them to escape the evils of this world and come into possession of the joys and glories of the world which is to come, let the expense, self denial, or sacrifice be whatever it may.

But there are a portion of our readers who we think might be benefitted by a hint upon this subject, some who manifest such an apathy in, such an entire disregard for, educational improvement, that it would seem as if they were careful lest their children should become more enlightened than themselves, or were waiting to be told that there could be any advancement made by their children, beyond what themselves had made. Many there are whose humble circumstances seem to require their utmost

energy and diligence to plod along through life with but a scanty reward for their toil, and who feel themselves ill prepared to do anything of importance towards the improvement of either themselves or their children, but all this can scarcely amount to an excuse where there is a Branch of the Church established.

It is the duty of the Presiding Elders and Teachers in particular, to establish Sunday Schools in all places where it is found practicable, and teach the children of the Saints the holy precepts and doctrines contained in the *Catechism* which is just published for that particular purpose. This little work contains an embodiment of the leading items of the faith and doctrines of the Latter-day Saints, and is arranged in questions and answers adapted to the capacities of all children, from infancy to seventy years of age.

All Saints ought to be familiar with the contents of this little work, and for recreation at home, as well as duty at school, ought to seek diligently to acquire and impart the treasure of knowledge therein contained. How little do even the parents realize that the heaven of heavens has been stirred, and the very Godhead has been moved, to hand to fallen man the knowledge and power by which their sins are remitted, and the gifts of the Holy Ghost are conferred. Who realizes that the Great Eternal has appeared, with His Son Jesus on His right hand, and said to brother Joseph—"This is my beloved Son, hear him?" Who appreciates the fact that angels, men raised from the dead, have again visited the earth, laid their hands upon and ordained men in our own day with authority to forgive sins, to confer the Holy Spirit, and build up the Kingdom of God with great power, despite all opposition? Who contemplates in the light of truth that sacred record, the Book of Mormon, that unanswerable proof of the existence of God and the power of His Gospel to all infidelity, brought forth out of the ground, and translated by the Urim and Thummim? Or who is expecting more of the precious words of God and His Prophets to be brought forth from that same sacred keeping, and translated for the comfort and up-building of His people? Who dwells in the understanding of those sublime truths which are recorded in the Doctrine and Covenants, as given by the voice of Jesus and of the Holy Spirit? Or who can yet fully appreciate the untold blessings, resulting to God's people in all the world, from the faithful care, counsels, and labours of a Joseph and a Brigham, to lead forth Israel as a flock, and give to them the laws and ordinances of life? Certainly those who do realize and appreciate these momentous truths will use indefatigable exertions to impart a correct knowledge of them to their children. Vice and iniquity are fearfully increasing in the land daily, stalking abroad in the streets unblushingly; and shall the children of the Saints be left to grow up with all these allurements to sin before their eyes, subject to all its contaminating influences, without an effort to fortify their young, tender, and active minds against these deadly pestilences? We say, No. Let the Saints awake to the importance of this matter. While children are young, they are just as ready to receive the truth, to imbibe virtuous and holy principles, as those which are vicious and impure. They are not the "totally depraved" beings which some teach they are; they are innocent in their beginning, and said our Saviour—"of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Then let parents be diligent, and before the adversary has time to sow tares, see that their little ones have the seeds of life—the words of God, the precepts of eternal truth, as contained in the *Catechism*—sown in their hearts, and this will fortify them the most effectually of anything the parents can do for them against the wiles of the Devil; and tend the most powerfully to prevent their imbibing the iniquitous habits and vile practices which are so constantly before their eyes in the world. Let parents be diligent to watch over their children, prevent them from associating with those who indulge



without restraint in blasphemy, and other pernicious habits, which drown men's souls in perdition. "Keep them in," and teach them good and holy precepts, with righteous examples, and they will save you many an aching heart.

How many fond parents find themselves awakened from the sleep of ages in the meridian of their days, or perhaps in the sear and yellow leaf of their lives, and find they have but a few short years left in which to work out their salvation and obtain promises. How all important it is to such that they give all diligence to establish the feet of their children in the way of life, that when they have passed off this stage of action, their generation that shall come after them may stand before the Lord in Zion, and establish their fathers' houses before Him for ever.

Let presiding Elders of Conferences and Branches take this subject into their careful consideration, and let it constitute a part of their duty to the congregations of the Saints to teach them in this matter their duties to their children, for the time has come that neglect of this duty is no longer justifiable.

**FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE—Deseret.**—The mail from Salt Lake City, June 1, was handed in on the morning of July 24, including above fifty letters, and our packages of *Deseret News*, Nos. 13 and 14, from which we learn of the decease of the venerable Patriarch John Smith, whose obituary is given at length on another page. What a number of worthies have already passed behind the veil, to engage in another part of the great work which must be accomplished ere the Church on the earth can be brought "to the general assembly and church of the first-born, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect!"

His Excellency Governor Brigham Young left Great Salt Lake City May 4, on a tour through the southern settlements, accompanied by Heber C. Kimball, General Daniel H. Wells; also Elders John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Ezra T. Benson, Lorenzo Snow, and Erastus Snow, of the Quorum of the Twelve; Joseph Young, senior President of the Seventies; Bishop Edward Hunter, Phineas Young, Lorenzo D. Young, Truman O. Angell, and several others. Colonel George A. Smith was to have accompanied the party, but the illness of his father prevented. They preached in all the settlements, and found a good spirit generally prevailing. The crops looked well, and much more ploughing and seeding had been done this season than heretofore. Much grain had also been sown for the Indians, who were generally very friendly. At Chicken Creek, a little more than one hundred miles south, they were joined by Indian Walker, also Grosopene and Waabear, two noted Indians of the Utahs, who accompanied them on their journey.

We are informed the party went as far south as the Rio Virgin, re-established Fort Harmony, a post established by Elder John D. Lee two years since, and evacuated during the Indian difficulties of last summer. "It is ascertained that all tropical productions can be raised there, and as all is peace now, the brethren are going a-head." Having accomplished their pleasant journey, though in a variety of weather, the company arrived home on the 30th of the same month.

Much energy is displayed in the advancement of the public works, and as an evidence of the interested spirit of the Saints there to forward the general interests, we may mention that a call was made in the Tabernacle for a contribution of cash, with which to purchase wheat for the public hands, which resulted in collecting the comfortable little sum of two thousand dollars.

The stress of counsel, and the direction of the energies of the people, seem to be turned to the culture of the earth and obtaining as abundantly as possible its rich

and varied productions, that another harvest may witness an abundance for both man and beast.

A general time of health is also reported throughout the Territory.

**Texas.**—Elder Seth M. Blair informs us that he is lecturing about four times each week in the best halls of Galveston, the commercial emporium of Texas. Of course his former friends in the law take the liberty to examine him pretty closely, but, as he is familiar with the "cross questioning" exercise, we have no doubt he will do his part admirably, and the more so as the case on trial is one every way worthy of the most brilliant efforts and the profoundest research, and will also admit of much "special pleading." We particularly hope he will make it appear to the enlightened jury of Texas, that their verdict must be rendered strictly according to the "statutes," and agreeably with the "chapter of definitions," and that "common law" is entirely ruled out of the proceedings of the court. Elder Blair has for several years been the United States Attorney for Utah, and having magnified his calling in the courts of the Territory, we earnestly hope that, seeing he has taken a "change of venue," he may be able to produce the requisite amount of unimpeachable evidence in favour of his cause, and then, if justice is outraged, and the verdict not rendered in favour of his client, that he may be abundantly able to obtain a "writ of error," founded on a competent "bill of exceptions," and be fully prepared to meet his opponents before the supreme tribunal from which there is no appeal.

Our personal acquaintance with brother Blair, and the interest he has ever manifested in favour of the truth, and the prosperity of Zion's cause, awaken in us a fervent desire that he may be as successful in the advocacy of the statutes, ordinances, and judgments of heaven, before his countrymen, as he has been in pleading the statutes of Utah before her tribunals. As an evidence that he intends to be, he calls for about two hundred dollars' worth of books, which he will receive from here via the office in St. Louis. He wishes to be remembered to his companions in travel over the plains, and those who have been engaged with him in the administration of justice in the valleys of Ephraim, who are now labouring in the British Isles.

**NOTICE.**—By request of Pastor Fulmer and Elder Dilla, the presiding authorities of the Manchester Conference, we give notice that William Woodburn, formerly of the Blackburn Branch, of the Preston Conference, and more recently of the Hury Branch of the Manchester Conference, has been cast off from the Church for attempting to violate the chastity of a female, and using abominable and lying arguments in endeavouring to persuade her to consent to his unholy desires, thereby turning the grace of God into lasciviousness. We are informed this is the third time that he has been similarly dealt with, for various offences, and we say, henceforth, he cannot be numbered with the Saints in the British Isles.

He who can boldly undertake to perpetrate such a crime, and prostitute his influence in the Holy Priesthood to such unhallowed purposes, must be dried up in the fountain of his spirit to all that is good, and well-nigh fit for the burning.

If it be possible that Mr. Woodburn is not altogether conscience seared, but still possesses a wish to try and reclaim himself, let him make it his first business to go to that where society is based upon that foundation that stoncs for such flagrant outrages by the forfeiture of life.

**APPOINTMENT.**—Elder Robert W. Wolcott is appointed to labour under the direction of Elder Charles B. Dana, Pastor of the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Hertford Conferences.

FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS, President

DANIEL SPENCER, Counsellor.

## DEATH OF THE PATRIARCH JOHN SMITH.

(From the "Deseret News," May 28.)

The knell for the departure of one mighty spirit has hardly ceased sounding in our ears, ere we are called upon to announce the departure of another noble spirit, who has laid down a frail body to rest awhile, and passed behind the veil to strike hands and rejoice with his brothers Joseph, Asahel, and Silas; his nephews Joseph and Hyrum, and the faithful of all ages.

JOHN SMITH, Patriarch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, after a severe illness of one month, died at his residence in this city, at ten minutes past eleven o'clock, P.M., on the 28th inst.

Father Smith was born in Derryfield (now Manchester) Rockingham County, New Hampshire, on the 14th of July, A.D. 1781, and was baptized into the faith, which has so long preserved his life in usefulness, on the 9th of January, 1832, and ordained an Elder, after having been given up by the doctors to die of consumption. The weather was so cold that the ice had to be cut, and from that time he gained health and strength.

In 1833 he moved to Kirtland, Ohio, and in 1838 to Far West, Caldwell County, Missouri, and thence to Adam-ondi-Ahman, in Davies County, where he presided over that Branch of the Church until expelled by the mob in 1839, and arrived in Illinois on the 28th of February of that year. He located at Green Plains, six miles from Warsaw, where he put in a crop of corn, split rails, and performed much hard labour unsuited to his health and years, but obliged to be done for the support of his family. In June he moved to Commerce (since Nauvoo), and on the 4th of October was appointed to preside over the Church in Iowa, and on the 12th moved to Lee County to fulfil that mission.

October, 1843, he moved to Macedonia, Hancock County, Illinois, having been appointed to preside over the Saints in that place. In January, 1844, he was ordained a Patriarch, and in November of that year, was driven by mobbers from Macedonia to Nauvoo, where he continued to administer patriarchal blessings, to the joy of thousands, until the 9th of February, 1846, when he was compelled by the mob violence of the free and Sovereign State of Illinois, to again leave his home and cross the Mississippi with his family, in search of a peaceful location, far off amid savages and deserts, in the valleys of the mountains.

After passing a dreary winter on the right bank of the Missouri, at a place called Winter Quarters, he again took up the weary ox train march on the 9th of June, 1847, and reached this place September 23rd, where he presided over the Church in the mountains until January 1, 1849, under the hands of Presidents Brigham Young and Heber C. Kimball.

He moved out of the Fort on to his city lot February, 1849, and this is the only spot on which he has been privileged to cultivate a garden two years in succession for the last twenty-three years.

In addition to a vast amount of varied and efficient aid to thousands in the way of salvation, during his long and faithful ministry, he administered 5560 Patriarchal Blessings—which are recorded in seven large and closely written books, and has closed the arduous duties of a well occupied probation, and passed to a position of rest, where his works will nobly follow and honour him, and where he will continue his able counsels for the prosperity and welfare of Zion.



## THE SCANDINAVIAN MISSION.

28 and 29, Gothersgade, Copenhagen, June 22, 1854.

President Franklin D. Richards.

Dear Brother—It is with great joy and satisfaction that I have the privilege of addressing you, when I reflect that but a very short time ago you were in the peaceful Vale of the west, mingling your voice with the sons and daughters of Zion, but more especially with the Presidency, and the Quorum of the Twelve, with whom you are associated, and upon whom rests the responsibility of opening up the way of salvation and exaltation to the nations of the earth.

The work of the Lord here is continually gaining ground.

In Norway they continue to sow the seed of the Gospel, and quite a number have been added to the Church, notwithstanding the usual opposition.

I can say the same of Sweden. I am informed that there have been forty persons baptized in one district since April. Nothing further of particular note has transpired in that part of the vineyard. They are doing as well as can be expected, circumstances considered. There is no apparent improvement in prospects, as regards religious toleration.

In Denmark the King's ministry have become alarmed because of the rapid progress of "Mormonism," and they have accordingly appointed a committee of five—Justitzraad Casse, Provst Becker, Lic Fenger, Conferenzraad Johnson, and Bishop Engelstoft, to investigate the matter, and see what can be done to prevent the spread of the work. The newspapers have mentioned the committee two or three times, and that they were having the subject of "Mormonism" under consideration, but I have not as yet learned the result.

The Lutheran Priests here are quite in favour with the Catholics; they say, notwithstanding they were considered a very dangerous people about three hundred

years ago, they feel quite willing to fellowship them now. But at the present time they consider the "Mormons" far more dangerous than the Catholics ever were, so you can see a little how they feel. What they will do, I know not, neither do I care; one thing is certain—that it is not in the power of the King's ministry, neither the police, with all the hireling priests of Denmark combined, to expel "Mormonism" from this land. The seed is sown, and will take root, and break forth upon the right and left, until the honest in heart are gathered into the Gospel net. Many are investigating the work, and there is a gradual increase. There have been fourteen persons baptized here within two weeks. I baptized three of the number—they are the first that I have baptized in the Danish language. Our meetings are interesting, and well attended; many strangers present themselves, and are, apparently, interested. Peace has prevailed; no disturbance of late, until last Sunday, when, as the meeting was about to be concluded, four or five men came in, and began to make a great disturbance. They were requested to desist, but that only made them worse, and the final result was, they found those who had the power to cast them out, notwithstanding their violent resistance, and they very soon found themselves outside of the door, and no one injured.

I consider that the prospects are very good. The work in which we are engaged is the Lord's. No one can stay His hand. His purposes will be accomplished, and I rejoice in it.

You will please accept of my love and best respects. I wish to be remembered to the brethren in the office.

Yours respectfully in the Gospel Covenant.

JOHN VAN COTT.

## VARIETIES.

It requires greater virtues to support good than evil fortune.—*La Rochefoucauld.*

THE *Patriot* says—"Polygamy is a local institution in Utah, as much as slavery is in the Southern States. Upon the principle of the Nebraska Bill, therefore, it would be equally entitled to Federal toleration and protection. Should this, then, be conceded, fugitive wives may be pursued and recovered under the Fugitive Slave Act."

We have now under our care a girl whose mother has been living criminally with a professed minister of the Gospel, and whom the girl has seen in the pulpit, and listened to his discourse. We have another who is the daughter of a minister; another whose brother is a minister. I wrote to a minister the other day who lives in open criminal intercourse with a young lady; and one, that he lived with before, he has pensioned off in style. Another, whom I wrote to lately, kept a mistress in the house of a minister.—London Correspondent of the *Liverpool Weekly News*.

The *Galveston (Texas) Journal* says—"Seth M. Blair, from Salt Lake, who holds the distinguished position of United States Attorney for Utah, arrived in our city by the steamer Charles Morgan. He is an Elder in the Mormon Church, and purposes discoursing to our citizens on the tenets of that religion. Elder Blair resided in Texas in Revolutionary times, and did our State "some service" in 1836—7. He formerly belonged to the Methodist denomination, but became convinced in his mind that Mormonism was the true doctrine, and has since, as his talents entitled him, become one of the expounders of that singular faith. We may not believe, but we have no fears in listening to arguments which are novel, apparently logical, and, to perhaps the ablest theologians, unanswerable, so long as the literal language of the Scripture is taken as a guide. We have found few better Biblical scholars than some of these Mormon preachers, and they can bring any amount of Scripture proof to justify what we consider the most obnoxious feature in their Church relations—polygamy. The ladies of course, will not countenance the doctrine, and men are not all Solomons now-a-days, but still curiosity will prompt many to listen. Elder Blair holds forth at the Lyceum to-night."

#### TO FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS.

Thy return, brother Franklin, we hail,  
While our hearts breathe a kindly adieu,  
Also pray for a prosperous gale  
For Samuel, brother to you.

His kindness our hearts did oft cheer,  
While his counsel directed our way;  
He taught us the truth to revere,  
And the laws of our God to obey.

Though not seen, he was truly belov'd,  
By all who his counsel receiv'd;  
And his doctrine, by purity prov'd,  
Gave peace to the mind that believ'd.

May his gentle, benevolent soul,  
Be replenish'd from mercy's rich stores;  
May that mercy each billow control,  
And safe land him on Zion's blest shores.

M. A. WALKER.

#### LIST OF WORKS FOR SALE BY FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS, 15, WILTON STREET, LIVERPOOL;

AT THE L. D. S. BOOK DEPÔT, 35, JEWIN STREET, CITY, LONDON; AND BY AGENTS IN ALL THE MEETING PLACES OF THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN THE BRITISH ISLES; AND MAY BE HAD AT ALL BOOKSELLERS.

*Book of Mormon*, morocco extra, 6s. 6d.; grained roan, 3s.; do. Welsh (*Llyfr Mormon*), grained roan, 4s.; do. French (*Le Livre de Mormon*), 3s. 6d.; do. German (*Das Buch Mormon*), 3s. 6d.; do. Italian (*Il Libro di Mormon*), morocco extra, 6s. 6d.; grained roan, 4s. 6d.; do. Danish (*Mormons Bog*), grained roan, 4s. *Doctrine and Covenants of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, morocco extra, 6s.; calf, gilt edges, 4s.; grained roan, 2s. 6d.; do. Welsh (*Athrawiaeth a Chyfammodau*), grained roan, 3s. 6d. *Pearl of Great Price*, 1s.; do. Welsh (*Y Perl o Fawr Bris*), 1s. 2d. *Hymn Book*, morocco extra, 4s.; calf, gilt edges, 2s. 6d.; calf grained, 2s.; roan, 1s. 6d. *Biographical Sketches of Joseph Smith the Prophet, and his Progenitors for Many Generations*, by Lucy Smith, Mother of the Prophet, morocco extra, 6s.; calf gilt, 4s.; grained roan, 2s. 6d. *Harp of Zion*, by Elder John Lyon, morocco extra, 6s. 6d.; cloth, gilt extra, 3s. 6d.; cloth embossed, 2s. 6d. *Government of God*, by John Taylor, one of the Twelve Apostles, 1s. 9d. *Catechism for Children*, by Elder John Jaques, cloth, gilt edges, 10d.; stiff covers, 6d. *Gibson and Woodman's Three Nights' Discussion*, 6d. *Testimonies for the Truth*, by Elder Benjamin Brown, 4d. *Latter-day Saints in Utah*, 3d. *One Year in Scandinavia*, by Erasmus Snow, one of the Twelve Apostles, 3d. *Salvation—Two Dialogues*, by Elder John Jaques, 1d. each.

#### PERIODICALS.

*Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star*, half calf, vol. XI., 6s. 6d.; XIII., 4s. 6d.; XIV., 6s. 6d.; XV., 6s. 6d.; XVI., weekly, 1d. *Supplement to Millennial Star*, vol. XIV., 8d.